

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 TRSE-00 COME-00 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01

DRC-01 /115 W

----- 027377

R 231417Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8162

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD VIA POUCH

UNCLAS MOSCOW 6028

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV OPENS KOMSOMOL CONGRESS

1. BREZHNEV'S KEYNOTE SPEECH AT APRIL 23 MORNING SESSION OF 17TH KOMOSOMOL CONGRESS WAS TELEVISED LIVE. HIS REMARKS ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS WERE BRIEF AND PERFUNCTORY, AND THERE WAS LITTLE CONTENT IN THE 67-MINUTE SPEECH AS A WHOLE. HIS DELIVERY WAS SOMEWHAT LABORIOUS THAN USUAL AND HE STUMBLED OVER PHRASES TWICE.

2. THE AUDIENCE RESPONDED WITH APPARENT ENTHUSIASM TO BREZHNEV BUT LESS SO TO THE REST OF THE POLITBURO. BREZHNEV GOT A STANDING OVATION OF 80 SECONDS AT THE BEGINNING AND FIVE MINUTES AT THE END OF HIS SPEECH. BUT THE BIGGEST APPLAUSE DURING HIS SPEECH WAS GIVEN TO BREZHNEV'S EXHORTATIONS ON THE GUIDING ROLE OF THE PARTY IN THE KOMSOMOL.

3. IN ADDITION TO ANNOUNCING THAT THE BAYKAL-AMUR RAILWAY HAD BEEN DECLARED A KOMSOMOL SHOCK PROJECT, BREZHNEV ALSO NOFITIED THE CHEERING AUDIENCE THAT 20,000 KOMSOMOLS ANNUALLY

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WOULD BE SENT TO THE RSFSR NONBLACK-EARTH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

4. LEADERSHIP ATTENDANCE AND LINEUP WAS IDENTICAL WITH
PREVIOUS DAY'S LENIN CELEBRATION EXCEPT FOR POSSIBLE
ABSENCE OF PONOMAREV.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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